

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

isa

An electronic data storage medium is adapted to be accessed by a data terminal, and includes a processing unit connected to a memory device that stores a data file and fingerprint reference data obtained by scanning a fingerprint of a person authorized to access the data file, a fingerprint sensor adapted to scan a fingerprint of a user of the electronic data storage medium and to generate fingerprint scan data, and an input-output interface circuit activable so as to establish communication with the data terminal. The processing unit is operable selectively in a programming mode, where the processing unit activates the input/output interface circuit to receive the data file and the fingerprint reference data from the data terminal, and to store the data file and the fingerprint reference data in the memory device, and a data retrieving mode, where the processing unit receives the fingerprint scan data from the fingerprint sensor, compares the fingerprint scan data with the fingerprint reference data to verify if the user of the electronic data storage medium is authorized to access the data file stored in the memory device, and activates the input/output interface circuit to transmit the data file to the data terminal upon verifying that the user of the electronic data storage medium is authorized to access the data file stored in the memory device.